

Fall 2016 Volunteer Service Awardees

The *AllPeopleBeHappy* foundation granted 8 Volunteer Service Awards this Fall. Of the 8 recipients, one is volunteering with **Yspaniola** in the Dominican Republic; the 7 other recipients are working with **Manna Project International** (MPI), 5 in Nicaragua, and 2 in Ecuador. In their own words, each talks about his or her assignment or experience.

Tiffany Brown: “My previous experiences in education and community organizing have led me



to pursue an opportunity to work in community-based education in a new, exciting project with Yspaniola in the Dominican Republic where I will be working from August 2016- August 2017. Yspaniola is situated in the heart of Batey Libertad, a marginalized community with limited access to many basic civil and educational services from the government. While at the organization, I will be assisting a variety of projects... I will assist in the learning center instructing young students in Spanish literacy. I will assist with other administrative tasks related to the support of Yspaniola’s educational programs. Among these programs include service-learning trips and summer camps for undergraduate students from all over the world... As an Yspaniola fellow, I will also conduct research on education and development in the Dominican Republic and best practices to further Yspaniola’s impact and outreach. Finally, I will be working to support documentation efforts of denationalized Dominicans of Haitian descent and ensure that members of the batey have proper documentation.”

Gavin Allman, Brooke Wilson, Elizabeth Niki Beggs, Rachel Zolotarsky, and Martha Lee are working with Manna Project International (MPI) in Nicaragua.

Gavin Allman: “On a weekly basis in local public schools I teach physical education, as well as a health class with a curriculum covering a wide range of relevant topics including mental health, puberty, peer pressure, and machismo culture. Outside of the public schools, I teach a beginner-level English class for Cedro Galán community members of all ages, as well as a more advanced English vocational training course that prepares participants for employment in call centers or the hospitality field. I also work shifts in the MPI health clinic, recording patient’s information and vitals before they are seen by the doctor.”





Brooke Wilson: “As a program director, I am responsible for leading a multitude of programs that are designed to meet the needs of these local communities. On a weekly basis, I coach lacrosse and foster personal development in youth at local private and public schools, teach adult English classes, provide aid in the community medical clinic, organize and assist in the creation of the upcoming community health promotion program, and foster creativity in young children through an afterschool kid’s program.”

Elizabeth Niki Beggs: “On July 16, 2016, I left for Nicaragua to work for MPI. As a health promotion major, I will be working at the community clinic in Cedro Galán to assist in providing primary care services to community members and the Child Sponsorship program in Villa Guadalupe, which serves critically undernourished children and ensures that they receive the proper nutrients and vitamins. I will also assist in developing a Community Health Promotion initiative that will educate community members on chronic disease. Finally, I will be teaching advanced English and working with Camp JAM to provide children with a creative outlet through games, art, and music.”



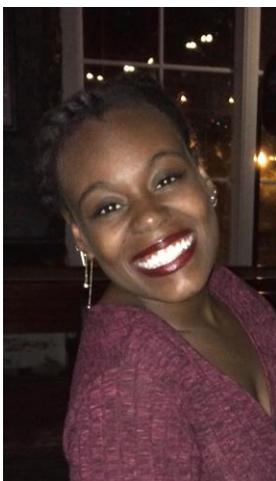
Rachel Zolotarsky: “I initially signed on to work as a five month Program Director with MPI in Nicaragua. However, after being here for just over a month I have chosen to extend my commitment to a full 13 months, from July 2016 to August 2017. On a weekly basis, I teach two English classes - one adult class for beginners, and one class for sixth grade students. I am working with a child sponsorship program, which focuses on nutrition by increasing health for children diagnosed as malnourished in Villa Guadalupe. I also provide tutoring for public school students struggling with mathematics, lead an after-school program, which provides young children with a creative and safe space, and assist with patient intake and vitals at MPI’s Cedro Galán Clinic.”



Martha Lee is receiving her 2nd Volunteer Service Award. Martha Lee: “I began my volunteer experience with MPI in January 2016, as a Program Director. In my seven months with Manna Project, I co-directed a creative arts class, an advanced English course, a women’s jewelry cooperative, and the Child Sponsorship and Nutrition program. I have elected to stay one more year beyond my initial contract, because I still have more to accomplish and more energy to serve the community of Villa Guadalupe with MPI. The professional and personal growth opportunities with Manna have been unmatched. I was promoted to the Senior Program Director position in August and will focus my efforts on leading the Child Sponsorship and Nutrition Program. I will be focusing my efforts on leading and organizing our Milk Day weeks, conducting a process evaluation of the program, and all other activities that keep our program running effectively.”



Hailey Harper and Ayzsa Tannis are working with Manna Project International in Ecuador. **Hailey Harper:** “For a period of seven months (January 2017-August 2017), I will be volunteering as a Program Director with MPI in Sangolqui, Ecuador. As a Program Director, I, along with the other Program Directors, will be responsible for the everyday operations of the various community programs. Working as a team, we will develop, expand, and run the programs depending on the needs of the community. Personally, I hope to be involved in the relatively new women’s soccer program that encourages and empowers the young girls and young women to be active in their lifestyle and leaders in their communities.”



Ayzsa Tannis: “I started working with Manna Project International on July 16th, 2016, and my time here will end December 16th. I currently lead the programs Kid’s Art club, Kid’s Science Club, and Kid’s Healthy Living and Nutrition. I also teach level one adult English and level one kid’s English, as well as instructing yoga and Zumba for our exercise program. Additionally, I am strengthening MPI’s connections with the local daycare, Gotitas del Saber. At Gotitas, I help the teachers with their English skills and also teach English once a week to the young children.”